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Strategic Theme: Global Perspectives

Project Title:

Hosting the Modern Greek Studies Association 25th Biennial Conference, an international academic meeting

Project Duration: One Time

Expected Start Date: November 2, 2016

Expected End Date: December 1, 2017

Introduction/Background:

In March, 2015, the Executive Board of the Modern Greek Studies Association (MGSA), an international academic organization, chose Stockton University to host their 25th biennial conference in November 2017. The Executive Board awarded Stockton the conference in recognition of the dynamic growth, and meaningful local, regional, national and international achievements of the Pappas Center for Hellenic studies. As the foremost academic collective of scholars in the field of modern Greek Studies from the 15th to the 21st century, the MGSA brings together scholars from around the world at a key moment in European and world history. Greece plays a critical role in discussions about the future of Europe, about whether the European Union and the Euro can succeed, and about how the world deals with the human dimension of the massive migrations and refugee settlements on the Greek shores. We are seeking partial funding (\$20,000) to assist in hosting the international conference, as well as associated activities that will enhance Stockton student and faculty experience. These funds will be matched (\$30,504) from donations made in the memory of Trustee Dean Pappas. The Pappas family directed the memorial fund to support the programs of the Pappas Center for Hellenic Studies. The Stockton sponsorship of the conference will be in memory of Trustee Dean C. Pappas.

It is clear to MGSA conference organizers, and the local organizers that we are planning this program without full funding in place. However, in order to make the bid for the MGSA, The Pappas Center had to commit to finding funding for this conference. The Pappas Center in essence is matching the majority of the funds required, and is committed to finding the remaining funds. While the 2020 Globalization Committee has yet to endorse this project, we believe that the Committee's endorsement is critical to the success of the program. It is the opportunity for Stockton University to show it truly supports international scholarly engagement both at home and abroad.

Purpose/Goal:

Hosting the MGSA directly internationalizes Stockton University not only during the conference itself, but also for periods leading up to, and following. While the Pappas Center routinely sends students abroad to Greece or Cyprus, the number of students experiencing the rich transformative experiences is limited, (in spite of the fact that the Pappas Center has sent the most Stockton students --mostly fully funded-- abroad than any other program). With this international conference, the campus and local

community will have an opportunity to participate directly in an event of global significance, as well as engage in multiple associated activities enhancing student experience.

Hosting the MGSA will directly impact the faculty, students, as well as the surrounding community by making Stockton a hub of international interdisciplinary scholarly and artistic activity, and by linking the MGSA to American and international universities and scholars who work in the field of Hellenic studies. Finally, Stockton has received tremendous reception while traveling abroad and now we feel it is time to reciprocate the hospitality, which, inevitably will strengthen our institutional relations with international scholars and organizations, especially from Greece.

Activities:

The MGSA 25th biennial conference will take place on Nov. 3-6 with the majority of the program taking place at the Stockton Seaview Hotel, with one day on the campus itself, and the Executive Board meeting on the final day. Stockton is responsible for expenses related to some meals, the keynote program, receptions. Hosting the event at Seaview Hotel poses the immediate challenge of feeding the participants, as they have very few options off site to purchase meals. Therefore, our hosting depends on this added expense not usually covered by general registration which is \$130 per person.

Additionally, we have sought to enrich the overall impact on Stockton's campus by introducing activities not normally included in the MGSA program, such as the theatrical production, a concert by a internationally acclaimed Cypriot singer, and inviting additional distinguished foreign scholars presenting at the MGSA to come to Stockton before or after the conference to present in our classes.

Conference Program: Panels will take place Thursday, Friday and Saturday (November 3-5). Stockton faculty will present papers, as well as moderate panels. The Pappas Center will likely be sponsoring three panels. 1) Internationalizing the Curriculum through Study Abroad with a presentation on "The Troy to Ithaca" pilot program for student veterans, including assessment findings and 2) a follow up panel on the 2020 funded project, "Lines Between: Culture and Empire in the Eastern Mediterranean," that was co-sponsored in 2015 by Stockton University-European University Cyprus, and 3) either an arts panel dealing with migrations and dislocations related to the work of Mariana Smith from Visual Arts, or a historical panel on Greek-America focusing on migration and assimilation to the USA.

Official topics that were announced for the conference are as follows:

- the Greek crisis: economic, social, cultural, political, and artistic responses;
- refugees and nationhood: "refugee crises" and the changing politics of humanitarianism
- Greece and the EU, the Mediterranean, the Balkans, and the Global South: new economies of labor, both local and global
- migrations, minorities, identities and communities: religious and ethnic minorities: shifting understandings of identity and alterity, historical and contemporary
- immigrant communities and citizenship: inside and outside Greece
- the poetics and politics of "nature": human interactions with the environment, change, and sustainability
- Gender relations and the politics of sexuality, historical and contemporary
- the dynamics of language in contemporary Greece: social and historical approaches
- Greek and Cypriot literature, arts and media
- Greek literature and arts in national and post-national contexts
- Greece and Greeks, Cyprus and Cypriots in the arts or media today: intersections between the arts and scholarship.

In addition to the panels, the Pappas Center is responsible for the Keynote address, where we hope, keynote speaker, Dr. Rita Severis, of Center of Visual Arts and Research in Nicosia, Cyprus, will be presenting about inter-communal activism between the Greek and Turkish community. This would further enhance our relations with activities in Cyprus, as well as making Stockton the lynch-pin between Cyprus and the MGSA.

Student Engagement: We will be integrating students into the administration of the conference to allow them as much contact as possible with the visiting scholars. Members of the various clubs and organizations such as History Club, Hellenic Society, the Text Center, Theater Club, American Studies society as well as others will be invited to participate. Stockton students will be attending the conference for free.

We will be working with Jiangyuan (JY) Zhou on ways in which to internationalize the curriculum on campus using the framework of this conference. Two courses, Greece in the 20th Century (Roessel), and Nation-building: Case study of Modern Greece (Papademetriou) will be taught directly in conjunction with the conference that will require student participation and associated assignments. With the assistance of JY Zhou, we will encourage colleagues from various departments including Economics, Political Science, History, Literature, and Visual Arts to participate, as well as create associated assignments.

Theatrical Program: Director from Athens in Residence: Stockton Theater Arts program plans to engage the MGSA scholars in a restaging of *Stones from God*, a play with a script written by Tom Papademetriou and Pam Hendrick based on original research of oral histories of Greek refugees from Cappadocia. The play will be directed by Martha Frintzila, the noted Greek director and singer, and will include music by the acclaimed Greek musician Panagiotis Sevas who have agreed to be in residence from September 27-November 5, 2017. No other university has such a record in the dramatic arts, of taking plays abroad to Greece and Turkey, and the MGSA has never staged play as a conference event, and in choosing Stockton, the MGSA board was clearly hoping that we would break new ground again. Additionally, this production is on the calendar for the Performing Arts Center's 2017 Calendar that is sent out before every new school year and advertised on campus throughout the semester.

Additional visitors to campus in conjunction with the conference will be a Masters in American Studies exchange student from the Aristotle University of Thessalonike, as well as Professor Nicoletta Demetriou of Oxford University who is planning to attend Stockton as a Fulbright scholar where she will be in residence for the semester teaching, and will perform a concert during the conference. Professor Demetriou also plans to debut an exhibition along with Stockton students who have worked on projects from Athens and England to be displayed.

Additional invitations will be made for visitors to come earlier than the conference or to stay later to add additional value to our campus by presenting to our community. Among these are Dr. Tzimboglou, Director of the National Library in Athens, and Dr. Kamouzes of the Center for Asia Minor Studies.

A Globalized conference: Using social media and live fee broadcasting, we are planning to make the conference available immediately globally—the first time it will be done for this specific conference. Stockton will become well known internationally because of this.

Outcomes and Assessments:

After each conference, the MGSA conducts its own survey about the conference experience and as local arrangements committee, Stockton would be involved in shaping the instrument, as well as gathering useful data. Aspects of interest to

For the theatrical production, we are depending on the Theater Program to conduct their usual assessment, which includes an audience post-show questionnaire. There will also be an outside evaluator (paid for by Performing Arts budget) to evaluate the production. An additional assessment tool needs to be created to measure the impact of working on a play written from foreign sources, and working under a director from Athens, Greece.

As there will be some courses specifically aligning their syllabi with the conference, classes with a Hellenic studies focus, will be assigned tasks to rate how the conference has changed their global perspectives and how it relates to their work they study in class.

Additional non-Hellenic studies faculty (history, political science, literature, economics), will be approached to participate and align syllabi and course assignments related to the conference topics. These will assess student performance on the specific assignments. These could be writing assignments, or presentations.

Additionally, we are investigating instruments to be able to survey how the conference has changed or enhanced the global perspectives of students participating in the theater, exhibitions, and other activities.

To enable us to create these assessment models, we will be working with JY Zhou to determine appropriate ways to assess the outcome on our campus community. JY has been quite active with the various international projects, and has creative ways to assess and form instruments that would allow us to measure the impact on students, on faculty, and perhaps even on the international visitors as well.

Work with JY Zhou has not yet begun, but it is on the agenda of the Pappas Center for the coming semester.

Summary of Budget Request:

Request \$20,000 to be matched by \$30,504 from donations made in the memory of Trustee Dean Pappas. Conference will be in Memory of Trustee Dean C. Pappas.

Meals	Per person	# people/rooms	days	totals
Breakfast	\$5.09	130	3	1,985.10
Lunch	\$16.99	130	3	6,626.10
Dinner/reception	\$49.99	130	2	12,997.40
Meals Total:				\$21,608.60
Keynote				
Airfare	\$1,200.00	1		1,200.00
Lodging	\$109.00	1	5	545.00
Honorarium	\$2000.00	1		2,000.00
Keynote Total:				\$3,745.00
Transportation				
Shuttle to/from Philadelphia Airport:	\$1,000.00		2	2,000.00
Shuttle to/from main campus	\$800.00		1	800.00
Transportation Total:				\$2,800.00
Conference Rooms				
\$129 per Room	\$129.00	10	2	2,580.00
Conference Room Total:				\$2,580.00
Theater Production				
Director/musician stipends	\$4000.00	2		8,000.00
per diem	\$50.00	2	30	3,000.00
Apartment	\$2000.00	2		4,000.00
Theater Production Total:				\$15,000.00
Additional Speakers				
Housing	\$109.00	3	10	3,270.00
Honorarium	\$500.00	3		1,500.00
Additional Speakers Total:				\$4,770.00
TOTAL				\$50,504.00

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